

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7952

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 14468

DEPARTMENT PASS OPIC AND COMMERCE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN, EMIN, TH

SUBJECT: TEMCO AND THE GOVERNMENT MINING COMPANY

REF: A) BANGKOK 4705; B) STATE 168984

1. UNION CARBIDE OFFICIALS HERE ARE HOPEFUL THAT THEY WILL BE ABLE TO RESUME MINING ON THE FORMER TEMCO CONCESSIONS AS AGENT FOR THE GOVERNMENT BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR. THE THAI CABINET THIS WEEK CONFIRMED THE APPOINTMENT OF A BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO A NEW MARINE MINING ORGANIZATION, THE STATE ENTERPRISE WHICH NOW OWNS THE CONCESSIONS. THE CHAIRMAN WILL BE MR. DAMRI NOIMANEE. ACCORDING TO GRAHAM NELSON OF CARBIDE, DAMRI IS FRIENDLY WILL SHELL PEOPLE WHO ARE CONFIDENT THAT THE CARBIDE-SHELL PROPOSAL TO WORK THE CONCESSIONS WILL GO THROUGH.

2. ALL SIGNALS FROM THE GOVERNMENT TO THE EMBASSY ARE THAT THE CARBIDE-SHELL PROPOSAL WILL BE ACCEPTED. PRIME
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MINISTER KUKRIT AND FINANCE MINISTER BUNCHU BOTH HAVE

TOLD THE ECONOMIC
COUNSELOR THAT A FAVORABLE SOLUTION
WILL BE REACHED. PRINCE PIRIYADIT DITSAKUN OF THE INDUSTRY
MINISTER'S OFFICE WHO WAS ALSO APPOINTED TO THE MARINE
MINING ORGANIZATION BOARD IS KNOWN TO FAVOR THE CARBIDE-
SHELL PROPOSAL.

3. ONE CAVEAT IN THE SITUATION IS HOW THE GOVERNMENT
WILL RESPOND TO OPPOSITION FROM THE RABID NATIONALIST
GOVERNOR OF PHANG NGA THAWAT MOKKARAPHONG, STUDENT AND
LEFT-WING PRESS ACTIVISTS. TWO LONG-TIME FOES OF TEMCO,
THE RADICAL LEFT-LEANING RESOURCES CONSERVATION FRONT
AND THE NEWSPAPER PRACHATIPATAI, ALWAYS IN SEARCH OF A
CONTENTIOUS ISSUE TO DENOUNCE WESTERN IMPERIALISM, ARE
NOW CALLING FOR ACTION AGAINST THAISARCO, CARBIDE-SHELL'S
TIN REFINERY AT PHUKET. THEY ARE CHARGING THAT THAISARCO
IS SHIPPING OUT VALUABLE RADIOACTIVE ORE AS SLAG, A CHARGE
WHICH THE COMPANY SAYS IS ABSOLUTELY BASELESS. THEY ARE
ALSO RINGING IN THE NAMES OF SARIT, THANOM, AND PRAPHAT
DURING WHOSE TIME THAISARCO ORIGINALLY BEGAN OPERATIONS.
CARBIDE OFFICIALS ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THIS CAMPAIGN, AS
WELL AS THEY MIGHT BE, CONSIDERING THE ANGUISH OF THE
PAST YEAR.
WHITEHOUSE

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